

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8397

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NICOSIA 611

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR EG UK US CY

SUBJECT: NIMBUS STAR

REF: LONDON 4554; STATE 73371

1. FCO HAS BLOWN LOCAL PUBLICITY QUESTION OUT OF PROPORTION. IT WAS BRITS RATHER THAN MAKARIOS WHO ARE ANXIOUS FOR ADVANCE PUBLICITY (NICOSIA 587), AND BRITISH HICOMER HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT MAKARIOS DID NOT KNOW OF EGYPTIAN RELUCTANCE WHEN HE OFFERED TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BRITS. I REMINDED HICOM THAT BRITS THEMSELVES MIGHT HAVE REASONS TO AVOID PRECEDENT OF HAVING MAKARIOS MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON BRITISH SOVEREIGN BASES AND I THINK HICOM HAS COOLED TO IDEA OF MAKARIOS ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. HICOM PRESENTLY TALKING TO FOREIGN MINISTER. HAS ASSURED ME HE WOULD EXPLAIN EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITIES. HE DOES NOT HAVE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ON PUBLICITY ANGLE FOR HELICOPTERS OR ON RELATED MATTER. EXPECTS MOMENTARILY, AND IS ASKING FOREIGN MINISTER FOR APPOINTMENT WITH MAKARIOS THIS
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AFTERNOON. IF THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF MAKARIOS

LITURGICAL PREOCCUPATIONS, BRITISH DCM ASSURES ME HICOM WILL
TRANSACTION MATTERS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON.

3. FROM CAIRO MESSAGES, WE WONDER WHETHER
GOE REALIZES THAT BRITISH BASES ARE FISH BOWLS, AND THAT
ANY OPERATIONS ON THEM WILL QUICKLY BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.
MIGHT BE USEFUL TO BEGIN EDUCATION OF GOE ON THIS POINT.

4. BRITISH DCM AGREES THAT, WHEN STORY BREAKS, WE WILL
REFER PRESS QUERIES TO THEM. THEY EXPECT TO RECEIVE
STANDBY LANGUAGE FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH FCO MAY MAKE,
BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE INFORMAL GUIDANCE TO LOCAL PRESS
AND TO BRIEF GOCYPRUS PIO SO THAT HE CAN CONFIRM GOCYPRUS
INFORMED AND SUPPORTS.
GRANT

SECRET

NNN

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